

Planning for a King County Food Policy Council

WSU King County Extension
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 120 (Duwamish Room)
Renton, WA 98055

June 9, 2004

Note: Homework for next meeting is highlighted in yellow.

Introduction Exercise

*Introduce yourself, where you work, the type of work you do and *how it impacts or is impacted by the work of the person before you.*

Name	Organization	Location	Impact
Leslie Zenz	WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program	Statewide	* works with many nonprofits and WSU to achieve goals
Becka Warren	WSU Small Farm Program and Cascade Harvest Coalition Farm to College project	Statewide	* WSDA funded the UW Farm to College project.
Marge Brando	Attended 2002 Food Security Conference and went on tour of Pierce County food system	planning to be a farmer in Lewis County	* impacted by what WSU is doing for small farms
Linda Nageotte	Food Lifeline	Shoreline – work covers much of W. Washington.	* programs address produce donations: Veg. Rescue, Produce for the People, Seattle's Table, Grocery Rescue
Janis Harsila	SNAC and private commercial fishing	Seattle (mostly south)	* lives in Shoreline and daughter volunteers with Food Lifeline
Haley Smith	P-Patch Program	south and central Seattle	* works with Cultivating Communities so is connected to SNAC
Charlie Chang	Hmong Association	Statewide	*works with Hmong farmers in Washington – many senior Hmong do gardening; looking for ways to help 100 or so small farmers in King County them, especially with access to land.
Sarah Murray	student at UW College of Forest Resources, Urban Ecology	Seattle	*working on how infrastructure of US impacts local food system
Branden Born	UW Urban Planning Dept. -- interested in getting food into urban planning program	Seattle	* advises students present at today's meeting
Laurie Karlinsky	student in UW Urban Planning	Seattle	* one of Branden Born's students
Alison Leber	former restaurant owner,	Seattle/Ballard	* particularly interested in

	parent, and member of Seattle Schools nutrition committee, CSA member, city chicken keeper		food system education
Pablo Monsivias	UW Nutrition Sciences and Public Health	Seattle	*interested in improving people's diets through education about food customs and culture as well as strengthening local economies through food
Mary Embleton	Cascade Harvest Coalition - - programs include FarmLink, Puget Sound Fresh, Harvest Celebrations, WA Ag Summit, Harvest for Humanity, UW Farm to College	mostly W. WA but statewide	*consumer education, community education, UW student projects, Hmong in FarmLink
Colleen Donovan	Heifer International NW	based in Ellensburg but work focused in metro Portland, W. WA, Okanagan and national.	*work dovetails with CHC work

Handouts

from Leslie

- Outline of Food Policy Council Process
- Draft Mission and Goals for WA State FPC
- Drake University FPC process
- Lane County – Food Policy Council map with types of achievements

from Sylvia

- Defining Community Food System Assessment: Elements and Purposes -- Chapter Two from What's Cooking in Your Food System?

What is interface between county council and city council? (and food policy council)

Last time homework was assigned...

Embelton helps coordinate Ag Commissions – How do Ag Comms differ from FPCs?

Ag Commissions tend to be reactionary to issues concerning ag. Seem to be less proactive toward ag issues. Sort of a special interest group. Sylvia added that the King County Ag Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the county council.

Ag Summit is new series of meetings of ag commissions – desire is to do some policy advocacy. Planning now for Fall 04 summit. Identifying issues that all Commissions can act on like scale appropriate infrastructure, or institutional buying. KC Ag Comm played big role in getting Pierce Cty AG Comm going.

We may want to consider building off existing Ag Comm model or interfacing with Ag Commission. Funding is critical – Pierce funded at very minimal level first year and less in second so limits ability to do anything.

Chang – how do the two entities relate? Ag Comm represents consumer and farmers and maybe FPC can represent broader interests so that they play two different roles. FPC should represent issues of general public – strong public private partnership. FPC should not be limited by County Council.

Zenz -- There is no formal statewide ag council or commission but there is desire to have that in place. Recent Statewide FPC meeting included farmers who were hoping FPC would be an Ag policy council. But not so, so ag groups withdrew from process – did not see the linkages of food system to production ag.

Embleton -- There may be way to use Ag Summit to do what ag production groups would like to see.

Establishing a Food Policy Council

Zenz outlined process of establishing an FPC.

Need to identify purpose, goals, and tangible outcomes in order to make the case to government and to other stakeholders. Today we'll focus on purpose and goals but first we need to decide scope.

Seattle, King County, both or broader?

Kantor: Gave a little history on past efforts of four years ago. Presented her argument for King County and Seattle/KC based council.

Embleton: Makes sense, because of existing interactions to marry City and County levels.

Zenz: The Portland/Multnomah fpc is an example of how the two levels work together. Haley Smith was around just after the process happened but it seemed to work well. Offered to get in contact with possible speaker for next meeting.

Nageotte: City and County are beginning to integrate more in terms of human services. Be mindful that county government is shifting toward regional approaches – Snohomish and Pierce.

Zenz: Could evolve into a more regional approach after it comes into existence.

Born: Might want to bring in as stakeholders some of the regional organizations so there are present for developing discussion. Seattle/King level is best for organizing to start with.

Donovan: Some problems are at county or at city level. What are points of intervention? Need to define purpose and set scale to match. Agrees need to do something realistic and tangible to get going.

Chang: Human service funds – people think Sno, King, Pierce as interchangeable. For Hmong, this is a better approach. Most farmers are not in the city. Broader approach insures that tricounty council has to work together and therefore have more power to influence city. City alone is too narrow of a focus. In the long run, need a broader area approach.

Homework assignment: Linda and Branden to identify regional groups to invite.

Purpose, goals, projects

Brainstorming....

Establish a credible body with full representation and funding that has implemented successful projects.

Purpose:

- Prepare for food infrastructure displacement from energy related problems. -- Strengthening local economy and ensuring local supply of food.
- Local food security.
- Reducing food miles.
- Reduce impacts on environment from farm production, processing, waste, etc.
- Increase understanding of different food system stakeholder issues.
- Raise awareness about key food system issues of stakeholders and public.
- Advocacy role. Mary will bring matrix on what NGOs can do re lobbying.
- Increase consumption of locally grown nutritious food especially among ALL low-income eaters. Culturally appropriate.
- To be compelling must be explicit about what is behind each item.
- Coordinate ag goals with nutritional goals
- Pay attention to waste streams.
- Food system assessment
- Advance farm to school, institutions, prisons
- Influence body of often-conflicting regulations – examine regulatory framework.
- Serve as clearing house of food system information.
- Improve infrastructure of food banking system.
- Address food safety barriers and opportunities.
- Expand outreach to nontraditional audiences including farmers.

Process concerns:

L.N. voiced a concern about moving forward without knowing what other people's concerns/issues are.

C.D. purpose may be to take on roles that political bodies cannot or to support a candidate that supports fpc values.

Need to identify core values – the “why” of the goals.

Avoid redundancy of other orgs position within market of all service providers.

Mission

- FPC can function as focal point for organization, research, policy, and program formulation. (Mission) to improve food system issues, hunger, health, nutrition, local economies – sustainable communities (econ., ecol., equity)
- Link production, distribution, and consumption.
- A place to join and leverage all of the work going on in food systems. – a central gathering point for policy and programs.
- Engage more people at a fundamental level because they eat everyday.
- Program education and engagement
- Expand outreach to nontraditional audiences including farmers.

Bike Rack

Food miles research reasons behind. (Warren and Brando to research the “why”)

Marge has a movie called The End of Suburbia the group could watch.

SPU – should be involved with food waste reduction, processing.

Sylvia announced that she is working on putting together a **web page to house resources for this group** including minutes from the meetings. She will let everyone know when it is ready and where to find it.

Next steps

Agenda for next time...

Discussion around advocacy process –

Paul Benz will do an intro piece

Mary will bring matrix

How would these objectives impact existing policies.

Portland Multnomah speaker?

Linda will be first in series of presentations from each person at table to hear what their work is and what issues are.

Brandon has funds to create annotated list of stakeholders. Will work with Sylvia on web page and info sharing.

Next meeting

Friday July 9 1-4 pm. Same place.

Adjourn